OBIGINAL Fred W. Schwinn (SBN 225575) 1 CONSUMER LAW CENTER, INC. 08 FED 12 PM 3: 44 12 South First Street, Spite San Jose, California 15 1 2 Telephone Number: (408) 294-6100 3 Facsimile Number: (408) 294-6190 4 Email Address: fred.schwinn@sjconsumerlaw.com E-FILING 5 Attorney for Plaintiff JO ANNE GRAFF 6 7 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 SAN JOSE DIVISION JF 10 JO ANNE GRAFF, 11 Plaintiff, COMPLAINT 12 v. **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 13 HUNT & HENRIQUES, a general partnership, MICHAEL SCOTT HUNT, 15 United States Code § 1692 et seq. 14 individually and in his official capacity, and JANALIE ANN HENRIOUES, individually 15 and in her official capacity, 16 Defendants. 17 18 Plaintiff, JO ANNE GRAFF (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), based on information and belief 19 and investigation of counsel, except for those allegations which pertain to the named Plaintiff or her attorneys (which are alleged on personal knowledge), hereby makes the following allegations: 20 21 I. INTRODUCTION 22 1. This is an action for statutory damages, attorney fees and costs brought by an individual consumer for Defendants' violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. 23 § 1692, et seq. (hereinafter "FDCPA"), which prohibits debt collectors from engaging in abusive, 24 25 deceptive and unfair practices. 26 2. According to 15 U.S.C. § 1692: 27 There is abundant evidence of the use of abusive, deceptive, and unfair debt а. 28 collection practices by many debt collectors. Abusive debt collection practices COMPLAINT

Case 5:08-cv-00908-JF

Document 1

Filed 02/12/2008 Page 1 of 9

County.

7. Plaintiff, JO ANNE GRAFF (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), is a natural person residing in Santa Clara County, California. Plaintiff is a "consumer" within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

V. PARTIES

- 8. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Defendant, HUNT & HENRIQUES (hereinafter "H&H"), is or was at all relevant times, a general partnership engaged in the business of collecting debts in this state with its principal place of business located at: 151 Bernal Road, Suite 8, San Jose, California 95119-1306. H&H may be served as follows: Hunt & Henriques, c/o Michael Scott Hunt, General Partner, 151 Bernal Road, Suite 8, San Jose, California 95119-1306 and as follows: Hunt & Henriques, c/o Janalie Ann Henriques, General Partner, 151 Bernal Road, Suite 8, San Jose, California 95119-1306. The principal business of H&H is the collection of debts using the mails and telephone, and H&H regularly attempts to collect debts alleged to be due another. H&H is a law firm and a "debt collector" within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 9. Defendant, MICHAEL SCOTT HUNT (hereinafter "HUNT"), is a natural person and licensed attorney in the state of California. HUNT may be served at his current business address at: Michael Scott Hunt, Hunt & Henriques, 151 Bernal Road, Suite 8, San Jose, California 95119-1306. HUNT is a "debt collector" within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 10. Defendant, JANALIE ANN HENRIQUES (hereinafter "HENRIQUES"), is a natural person and licensed attorney in the state of California. HENRIQUES may be served at her current business address at: Janalie Ann Henriques, Hunt & Henriques, 151 Bernal Road, Suite 8, San Jose, California 95119-1306. HENRIQUES is a "debt collector" within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 11. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants was an officer, director, agent, servant, employee and/or joint venturer of his co-defendants, and each of them, and at all said times, each Defendant was acting in the full course and scope of said office, directorship, agency, service, employment and/or joint venture. Any reference hereafter to "Defendants" without further

qualification is meant by Plaintiff to refer to each Defendant, and all of them, named above.

VI. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

- 12. On a date or dates unknown to Plaintiff, Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation that was primarily for personal, family or household purposes, namely a consumer credit card account issued by CitiBank (South Dakota), N.A., and bearing the account number XXXX-XXXX-9621 (hereinafter "the debt"). The financial obligation owed to CitiBank (South Dakota), N.A., by Plaintiff is a "debt" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 13. Sometime thereafter, on a date unknown to Plaintiff, the debt was consigned, placed or otherwise transferred to Defendants for collection from Plaintiff.
- 14. Thereafter, Defendants sent a collection letter dated February 12, 2007 (Exhibit "1") to Plaintiff which is a "communication" in an attempt to collect a debt as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).
- 15. A true and accurate copy of the collection letter dated February 12, 2007, from Defendants to Plaintiff is attached hereto, marked Exhibit "1," and by this reference is incorporated herein.
- 16. The collection letter dated February 12, 2007 (Exhibit "1") was Defendants' first written notice initially addressed to Plaintiff in connection with collecting the debt owed to CitiBank (South Dakota), N.A.
- 17. The collection letter dated February 12, 2007 (Exhibit "1"), was mailed in an envelope on which a postage meter imprint dated February 13, 2007, was printed.
- 18. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Defendants deposited the envelope containing the February 12, 2007, collection letter (Exhibit "1") in the United States Mail on or about February 13, 2007.
- 19. The collection letter dated February 12, 2007 (Exhibit "1") bears a signature believed to be that of Defendant, HENRIQUES.
- 20. The collection letter dated February 12, 2007 (Exhibit "1") represented or implied that Plaintiff's account had been reviewed by HENRIQUES.
 - 21. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that HENRIQUES did

not conduct a professional review of Plaintiff's account before sending the collection letter dated February 12, 2007 (Exhibit "1") to Plaintiff. See *Clomon v. Jackson*, 988 F.2d 1314 (2nd Cir. 1993) and *Avila v. Rubin*, 84 F.3d 222, 228-29 (7th Cir. 1996).

- 22. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that the collection letter dated February 12, 2007 (Exhibit "1") misrepresented the role and involvement of legal counsel.
- 23. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that the collection letter dated February 12, 2007 (Exhibit "1") misrepresented the true source or nature of the communication thereby making false statements in an attempt to collect a debt.
- 24. On or about February 19, 2007, Plaintiff's counsel, Fred W. Schwinn of the Consumer Law Center, Inc., sent a letter to Defendants via facsimile which stated in relevant part:

Please be advised that the consumer debtor in the matter referenced above has retained the services of the Consumer Law Center, Inc., to assist in the matter of debt relief. The purpose of this letter is two-fold. First, I wish to provide you with written notice in your capacity as a creditor, collection agent, or collection attorney that this consumer debtor, now our client, is in fact and in law **REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY.** As a result of this notice, and pursuant to Section 1692(b)(6) of Title 15 of the United States Code and Section 1788.14(c) of the California Civil Code, you are to immediately terminate any further direct or indirect contacts with our client. Please note that such prohibited contacts include, but are not limited to, all forms of communication by letter, phone, fax, email or any other means. This also includes any contact directly or indirectly with any employer, family member, friend, or other creditor of our client.

- 25. A true and accurate copy of Plaintiff's counsel's February 19, 2007, representation letter is attached hereto, marked Exhibit "2," and by this reference is incorporated herein.
- 26. A Memory Transmission Report attached as the last page of Exhibit "2" verifies that the 4 page document was transmitted to facsimile machine 362-2229 on February 19, 2007, and that said transmission was completed and that all pages were received and that the Memory Transmission Report was generated which confirmed said transmission and receipt.
- 27. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Defendants had actual knowledge that Plaintiff was represented by an attorney with regard to the debt owed to Citibank (South Dakota), N.A., on February 19, 2007.
 - 28. On or about March 26, 2007, HUNT sent a collection letter to Fred W.

envelope on which a postage meter imprint dated July 13, 2007, was printed.

Defendants to Plaintiff is attached hereto, marked Exhibit "4," and by this reference is incorporated

The collection letter dated July 13, 2007 (Exhibit "4"), was mailed in an

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herein.

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	Case 5:08-c	cv-00908-JF	Document 1	Filed 02/12/2008	Page 9 of 9		
1	b.				ction Practices Act, 15 U.S.C.		
2				(3) and 1692e(10);			
3	c.	Award Plaintiff statutory damages in an amount not exceeding \$1,000, pursuant to					
4			1692k(a)(2)(A);				
5	d.			is action and reasonable	e attorneys fees pursuant to 15		
6		U.S.C.§ 1692					
7	e.	Award Plaint	iff such other and	d further relief as may b	be just and proper.		
8							
9				CONSUMER I	LAW CENTER, INC.		
10				By: /s/ Fred W.	Schwinn		
11	Fred W. Schwinn, Esq. Attorney for Plaintiff						
12					NE GRAFF		
13							
14	CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO CIVIL L.R. 3-16						
15	Pursuant to Civil L.R. 3-16, the undersigned certifies that as of this date, other than the						
16	named parties, there is no such interest to report.						
17 18	/s/ Fred W. Schwinn Fred W. Schwinn, Esq.						
19	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL						
20	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff, JO ANNE GRAFF, hereby demands a trial by jury						
21	of all triable issues of fact in the above-captioned case.						
22			•				
23				/s/ Fred W. Sch Fred W. Schwir			
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				-9-			
	COMPLAINT						

HUNT & HENRIQUES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MICHAEL S. HUNT JANALIE HENRIQUES 151 BERNAL ROAD, SUITE 8
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95119-1306

AREA CODE 408
TELEPHONE 362 - 2270
FACSIMILE 3 62 - 2299

JO A GRAFF 210 El Carmelo Ave Palo Alto, CA 94306-2377

February 12, 2007

RE:

CITIBANK (SOUTH DAKOTA) N.A. Account Number: 5466160018089621

Balance as of February 12, 2007: \$6,031.79

Dear JO A GRAFF:

Our client, CITIBANK (SOUTH DAKOTA) N.A., has engaged this law firm to make demand for payment in full on your account referenced above. Your account is in default and has been closed, and formal demand is now being made for the entire outstanding balance. As of the date of this letter, your total debt is \$6,031.79. This amount may increase because of interest.

If you want to resolve this matter without a lawsuit, you must pay the outstanding balance stated above to satisfy your account.

Our client considers this to be a serious matter. A legal proceeding is a matter of public record. If a lawsuit is filed, the local court could enter a judgment against you for the entire balance of your account plus, to the extent provided in your account agreement and permitted by law, attorney's fees, court costs and interest. If a judgment is entered against you, it may appear on your credit record for up to seven (7) years and may affect your ability to obtain credit, employment and/or housing.

Federal law gives you 30 days after you receive this letter to dispute the validity of the debt or any part of it. If you do not dispute the validity of the debt, or any part of it, within that period, we will assume that the debt is valid. If you dispute the debt, or any part of it, in writing - by mailing a notice to this firm to that effect on or before the 30th day following the date you receive this letter - we will obtain and mail to you proof (verification) of the debt. And if, within the same period, you request in writing the name and address of the original creditor (if different from our client), we will furnish you with that information too. Upon receipt of you written dispute, all efforts to collect this debt will be suspended until we mail any required information to you. Our client will wait until sufficient time has elapsed for this firm to be able to receive a written notice of dispute from you - even if you mail it on the 30th day following the date you receive this letter - before authorizing us to file suit against you to collect this debt.

Additional important disclosures continued on reverse...



JO A GRAFF 210 El Carmelo Ave Palo Alto, CA 94306-2377

The state Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357) or www.ftc.gov.

This communication is from a debt collector. This letter is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

You may contact us toll free at 1-800-680-2426.

Very truly yours,

Michael B Hunt Janalie Henriques

HUNT & HENRIQUES

X0700502

U. S. POSTAGE

SAN JOSE, CA 95119

FEB 13 2007 00390 013600 FP0593588 JMC01 00101EC4

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ATTORNEYS AT LAW 151 Bernal Road, Suite 8 San Jose, California 95119-1306

HUNT & HENRIQUES

Palo Alto, CA 94306-2377 210 El Carmelo Ave JO A GRAFF

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Consumer Law Center, Inc.

12 South First Street, Suite 416 San Jose, CA 95113-2404 (408) 294-6100 Fax: (408) 294-6190

FAX COVER SHEET

FAX NUMBER TRANSMITTED TO: 408-362-229	FAX	NUMBER	TRANSMITTED	TO:	408-362	-229
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To:

Hunt & Henriques

From:

Fred W. Schwinn

Client/Matter: Jo Anne Graff-5466-1600-1808-9621

Date:

February 19, 2007

DOCUMENTS	NUMBER OF PAGES*
Letter	2

COMMENTS:

Original will NOT follow.

The information contained in this facsimile message is information protected by attorney-client and/or the attorney/work product privilege. It is intended only for the use of the individual named above and the privileges are not waived by virtue of this having been sent by facsimile. If the person actually receiving this facsimile or any other reader of the facsimile is not the named recipient or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the named recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution, or copying of the communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us by telephone and return the original message to us at the above address via U.S. Postal Service.

* NOT COUNTING COVER SHEET. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES, PLEASE TELEPHONE US IMMEDIATELY AT (408) 294-6100.



CONSUMER LAW CENTER, INC.

12 South First Street, Suite 416 San Jose, CA 95113-2404

(408) 294-6100 Fax (408) 294-6190

Fred W. Schwinn fred.schwinn@sjconsumerlaw.com

Via Fax to: 408-362-2299

February 19, 2007

Hunt & Henriques 161 Bernal Road, Suite 8 San Jose, CA 95119-1306

In the Matter of:

Jo Anne Graff

210 El Carmelo Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94306-2377

Your Account or File No(s).: 5466-1600-1808-9621

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have attached a copy of your most recent correspondence for your reference. Please be advised that the consumer debtor in the matter referenced above has retained the services of the Consumer Law Center, Inc., to assist in the matter of debt relief. The purpose of this letter is two-fold. First, I wish to provide you with written notice in your capacity as a creditor, collection agent, or collection attorney that this consumer debtor, now our client, is in fact and in law REPRESENTED BY AN ATTORNEY. As a result of this notice, and pursuant to Sections 1692b(6) and 1692c(a)(2) of Title 15 of the United States Code and Section 1788.14(c) of the California Civil Code, you are to immediately terminate any further direct or indirect contacts with our client. Please note that such prohibited contacts include, but are not limited to, all forms of communication by letter, phone, fax, email or any other means. This also includes any contact directly or indirectly with any employer, family member, friend, or other creditor of our client.

Second, this letter is intended to dissuade your firm from filing a lawsuit against our client and reducing the amount that is allegedly owed to a judgment. Should you choose to file a lawsuit against our client in this matter, please be advised that I have reviewed with our client the list of California exemptions provided by the Judicial Counsel of California and I have determined that our client owns no property that could be subject to attachment or levy. Furthermore, our client is disabled and unemployed. Our client is therefore "judgement proof." Should you decide to reduce the amount allegedly owed to a judgment, it will remain uncollectible.

Upon receipt of this letter, any future direct or indirect contacts with our client will result in our office filing a claim against you under the Federal Fair Debt Collection Act, the California Civil Code, and any other available and applicable state or federal laws. If it becomes necessary to file any and all such claims, then please be advised and take due notice that our client will be seeking actual damages, statutory damages, court costs, and our reasonable attorney fees based on our hourly

rate of \$ 300.00. You are also hereby placed on notice that if unlawful and illegal conduct persists or is egregious, then our client will also seek an award of punitive damages as may be determined at the discretion of the Court.

Based on the foregoing, any further communications concerning our client and/or the subject debt must be directed to the Consumer Law Center, Inc. Be advised that any request for information will be addressed in a reasonable time period.

Until advised otherwise, you should mark this matter as "disputed." I anticipate your cooperation herein.

Very Truly Yours,

Fred W. Schwinn, Esq.

MEMORY TRANSMISSION REPORT

TIME

:02-19-'07 12:31

FAX NO.1

: 408-294-6190

NAME

: Consumer Law Center

FILE NO.

103

DATE

02.19 12:26

TO.

: **8** 3622299

DOCUMENT PAGES

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START TIME

02.19 12:27

END TIME

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To: Hunt & Huntigues
From: Fred W. Schwinn
Ghent/Matter: Lo Anne Graff-5466-1600-1808-9621
Date: February 19, 2007

RAX NUMBER TRANSMITTED TO: 408-362-2299.

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Case 5:08-cv-00908-JF

Document 1-4

Filed 02/12/2008

Page 1 of 1

HUNT & HENRIQUES

MICHAEL S. HUNT JANALIE HENRIQUES

ATTORNEYS AT LAW 151 BERNAL ROAD, SUITE 8 SAN JOSE, CA 95119-1306

AREA CODE 408 TELEPHONE 362-2270 FACSIMILE 362-2299

March 26, 2007

Attn: Fred W. Schwinn, Esq. Consumer Law Center 12 South First Street, Suite #416 San Jose, CA 95113-2404

> RE: JO A GRAFF CITIBANK(SOUTH DAKOTA)N.A. ACCT NO: 5466160018089621

Dear Mr. Schwinn:

Your recent correspondence has been forwarded to me for response.

Pursuant to your client's request, I am providing you with the following account documents:

1. Account statements from: 02/28/2006 to 01/31/2007

Please advise within ten days if you are authorized to accept service of process on behalf of Ms. Gresham. If we have not heard from you within ten days of the date of this letter, litigation will proceed and service will be attempted on your client directly.

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ALL INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED TO COLLECT THE DEBT.

Yours truly,

Michael S. Hunt **HUNT & HENRIQUES**

Case 5:08-cv-00908-JF Document 1-5 Filed 02/12/2008

HUNT & HENRIQUES

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

151 BERNAL ROAD, SUITE 8
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95119-1306

AREA CODE 408
TELEPHONE 362 - 2270
FACSIMILE 362 - 2299

Page 1 of 3

July 13, 2007

MICHAEL S. HUNT

JANALIE HENRIQUES

JO A GRAFF 210 El Carmelo Ave Palo Alto, CA 94306-2377

Re:

CITIBANK (SOUTH DAKOTA) N.A. v.

JO A GRAFF

Case # 107CV084095

Date of Judgment: July 9, 2007 Amount of Judgment: \$6,251.79

Dear JO A GRAFF,

The court has entered judgment against you and in favor of our client in the amount of \$6,251.79. The judgment will remain valid for 10 years from the date it was entered and it can be renewed for an additional period of time. Judgments accrue interest at the rate of 10% per annum. The judgment is a public record and may be reported to the credit reporting companies and may be included on your credit report until the judgment expires.

We are in the process of recording an abstract of judgment which may create a lien on transactions involving real property such as your purchase, refinance or sale of real property. The abstract also remains valid for 10 years.

Now that judgment has been entered, our client has instructed us to attempt to collect the judgment. Wage garnishments and bank levies are legal remedies that we may attempt to use to collect the balance due under the judgment. If we use these remedies, additional costs will be incurred. We may request that the court add the costs to your judgment.

Our client is still willing to settle the debt. Please call us or email us to find out about settlement options. You can telephone us toll free at: 1 (800) 496-5048. Our email address is: Settlements@HuntHenriques.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

This firm is a debt collector and any information obtained may be used for the purpose of collecting the debt.

Very truly yours,

Michael S. Hunt Janalie Henriques HUNT & HENRIQUES Attorneys at Law X0700502



JO A GRAFF 210 El Carmelo Ave Palo Alto, CA 94306-2377 U.S. POSTAGE \$00.41

SAN JOSE, CA 95119 1JUL 13 2007 00410 042722 FPD593588 JMC01 02F65606

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ATTORNEYS AT LAW 151 Bernal Road, Suite 8 San Jose, California 95119-1306

HUNT & HENRIQUES

3430652377 5053

Palo Alto, CA 94306-2377 210 El Carmelo Ave JO A GRAFF